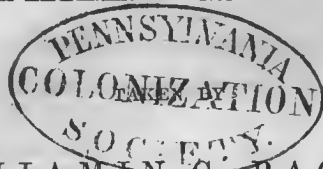


Sub. 2639  
Blotson 10/10/1  
LCF 160  
1870-

STATISTICS  
OF THE  
COLORED PEOPLE

OF

PHILADELPHIA.



BENJAMIN C. BACON,

AND PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF "THE PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY FOR  
PROMOTING THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY," ETC.

---

PHILADELPHIA :  
T. ELLWOOD CHAPMAN,  
NO. 1 SOUTH FIFTH STREET.  
1856.

5C  
326.973  
P4155

At a Stated Meeting of the Board of Education of the "Pennsylvania Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, &c.," held 12th mo. 8th, 1853, the Committee appointed to report a plan of collecting Statistics, &c., produced the following, which was accepted.

*To the Board of Education.*

The Committee appointed to consider of, and report to the Board the best method of ascertaining the present state of education among the colored population of our city and districts, in order that those who succeed us in this concern may at future periods, have some data from which they can form an estimate of the progress made by this class of our citizens in school learning, &c.

Recommend, That with the concurrence of the Society, our Visiting Agent be instructed to collect and arrange in tabular form the following and such other items of information as may be thought necessary to represent the present state of education among them, in addition to the duties heretofore assigned him, viz :—

The number over twenty years of age who can read and write and who understand the simple rules of arithmetic.

The number over twenty years of age who can read and write legibly,

- |     |   |                            |
|-----|---|----------------------------|
| do. | do.   | who can read only,         |
| do. | do.   | Slave born,                |
| do. | do.   | born free in Slave States, |
| do. | do.   | who cannot read or write,  |
| do. | of Libraries, date of organization, number of volumes, &c.,           |                            |
| do. | of Literary Societies, date of organization, &c.,                     |                            |
| do. | of children attending schools, and whether Public or Private Schools. |                            |
| do. | of children over eight years old, not attending School.               |                            |

Your Committee further recommend that the Agent be directed to ascertain the number employed as teachers, the number of artisans, the number who have learned trades, the number who work at their trades, and the number employed in the higher departments of labor, such as clerkships, &c. &c., so that our successors may also be enabled to note their progress in these respects.

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| POWELL STACKHOUSE, | } Committee. |
| BENJAMIN COATES,   |              |
| BENJAMIN C. BACON, |              |
| SIMEON COLLINS,    |              |

*Philadelphia, 12th mo. 8th, 1853.*

In accordance with the recommendation of the Report, BENJAMIN C. BACON was appointed, in Fourth Month, 1854, to perform the service therein named; and at the stated meeting of the Board in First Month, 1856, DILLWYN PARRISH, JOSHUA T. JEANES, and BENJAMIN COATES were appointed to assist the agent in its revision and publication.

DILLWYN PARRISH,  
Chairman of the Board of Education.

T. ELLWOOD CHAPMAN, Secretary.

## PREFATORY NOTE.

---

Those friends of the Colored people of this city, who have visited their Week-day and First-day Schools for a number of past years, notice with pleasure their greatly improved condition. Those who have, for a like period, mingled with adults in their Evening Schools, Libraries, Literary Associations and Churches, are much gratified to see how steadily they advance in knowledge and refinement.

The want of well authenticated facts relative to the number, character and condition of their various schools, and the state of education among adults, as they were thirty or forty years ago, has long been seriously felt. By comparing the present with past periods of their history, such information would enable all concerned in vindicating the character and rights of this oppressed people more effectually to repel the slanders of their enemies, and to correct the erroneous impressions of some of their friends, respecting their readiness and capacity to acquire learning.

The facts having been collected by a personal canvass of a member of the Society, in whose ability and integrity they have full confidence, are believed to be correct.

*Philadelphia, First month, (January,) 1856.*

## STATISTICAL INQUIRY.

### I. DAY AND EVENING SCHOOLS.

In the spring of 1853, the Board published a report of their School Agent, containing a comparative statement of the condition of these schools for the months of January and February, in the years 1852 and 1853. The following revised edition of that report, contains a sketch of their history for the year 1854:—

#### 1. PUBLIC SCHOOLS.\*

*Grammar Schools, (a)* Sixth street above Lombard. Established in 1822. Boys' school, James M. Bird, Principal, and three female assistants; total 228; average attendance 208. Girls' school, Maria U. Hutton, Principal, and three assistants. Total 252; average attendance 193.

*Primary School*, in the same building. Established in 1841. Jane Barry, Principal, and two assistants. Boys 105; Girls 98; total 183; average attendance 150.

*Roberts Vaux Unclassified School*, Coates street near Fifth. Established in 1833. David R. Murrell, Principal, and one female assistant. Boys 112; Girls 24; total 136; average attendance 93.

*West Philadelphia Unclassified School*, Oak street. Established in 1830. Mary A. Delamater, Principal, and one assistant. Boys 46; Girls 51; average attendance 78.

*Corn Street Unclassified School*. Established in 1849. Sarah L. Peltz, Teacher. Boys 18; Girls 29; total 47; average attendance 32.

*Frankford Unclassified School*. Established in 1839. William Coffee, Teacher. Boys 18; Girls 13; total 31; average attendance 25.

*Holmesburg Unclassified School*. Established in 1854. Maria Shade, Teacher. Boys 13; Girls 12; total 25; average attendance 19.

*Banneker School*, Pasehalville. Established in 1841. E. M. Biddle, Teacher. Boys 16; Girls 16; total 32; average attendance 15.

\* The total number and average attendance of these schools, was taken from the Controller's last Report. In consequence of the Consolidation Act, the year was changed from July to January, so that the Report is for one year and a half.

(a) Schools thus marked have Libraries.

The condition of Colored Public Schools generally, was formerly not as good as that of the Charity schools, but they have improved very much within a few years past. Owing to remissness on the part of parents, about twelve years ago the Grammar schools were on the point of being given up. The alarm was given—public meetings were held by the colored people, and an agent of their own appointed to visit from house to house and urge the people to duty. Our Board was also actively engaged in the matter. The schools were saved, and for the last three years have so increased in numbers that one teacher has been added to each school, making the full complement. The school house has recently been remodelled.

Within the past year very marked changes have taken place in the West Philadelphia school, and the St. Mary's street Primary school. The former has been removed from the hovel in which it was so long kept, to the basement of the Colored Baptist Church, and has so increased in numbers that the Directors have added another teacher, and are desirous of getting a still larger room. The latter school has been removed from its former bad location to the basement story of the Grammar schools in Sixth street, which has been fitted up on purpose for its accommodation. Since its removal, the better class of parents do not object to sending their children to it, and the number of scholars has increased so much that extra seats have been introduced.

## 2. CHARITY SCHOOLS.\*

*Institute for Colored Youth*, (a) Lombard street above Seventh. Established in 1852. Charles L. Reason, Principal, Grace Mapes, assistant Teacher in the Female department. Males 15; Females 16; total 31; average attendance 26.

*Raspberry Street Schools*, (a) corner of Locust and Raspberry streets. Established in 1770. Boys' School, John W. Stokes, Principal, and one female assistant; total 90; average attendance 64. Girls' School, Martha Cox, Principal, and one assistant; total 79; average attendance 53.

*Adelphi School*, (a) Wager street. The Girls' department established in 1838, the Infant department in 1835. Girls' department, Anna M. Kite, Principal, and one assistant; total 70; average attendance 42. Infant department, Catharine Shipley, Principal, and one assistant; total 95; average attendance 61.

*Sheppard School*, (a) Randolph street above Parrish. Established

\* The year of these schools begins about the first of September, and ends with the following summer vacation.

in 1850, Anna Buzby, Principal, and one assistant, total 60 ; average attendance 40.

*School for the Destitute at the House of Industry*, corner of Seventh and Catharine streets. Established in 1848. Sarah Lewis, Principal, and two assistants; total both sexes 100 ; average attendance 75.

*School for the Destitute*, Lombard street above Seventh. Established in 1851. Sarah Luciana, Teacher, total both sexes 73 ; average attendance 45.

*Infant School*, corner of South and Clifton streets. Established in 1827. S. C. Swan, Principal, and two assistants ; total 150 ; average attendance 85.

The unpretending title of the "Institute for Colored Youth," does not convey an adequate idea of the relation it sustains to the other schools. It is, in fact, the pioneer High School, and on that account alone cannot be too highly appreciated. But for the liberal spirit of the Trustees of the several funds given for its endowment, there might be nothing to answer the purpose of a High school for many years to come. Having commenced with seven pupils only, the present state of the school is all the more gratifying.

A considerable number of the scholars belonging to both the Raspberry street and Adelphi Girls' schools are so large and backward, that they would be ashamed to enter the Public Primary schools, and would do so reluctantly, if at all. Hence their greater usefulness. Adults are sometimes seen in the two former.

The Sheppard school is a great blessing to the part of the city in which it is located. As it is quite select, and as none but girls attend it, a large portion of those who fill its seats would sooner stay at home than go to Coates' street School.

The two schools for the destitute are objects of increasing interest. The Managers of the one at the House of Industry, introduced the industrial feature in a small way during the late fall and winter. A shoemaker was employed to superintend, and materials furnished for the larger boys to work up into shoes, for the use of the school. The experiment was satisfactory. The one in Lombard street is much better accommodated than formerly. Since the removal to their new location, a successful experiment has been made in a limited way, to introduce the home feature. Twelve of the children have been indentured to the Teacher, with power to bind them out as fast as she finds suitable places for them. The usefulness of both schools would be greatly in-

creased, if the majority of the children who attend them could be controlled in the same manner.

As no public provision is made for the instruction of children too young to attend the Primary schools, the two infant schools are watched with deep interest. They are both in a very satisfactory state.

### 3. SCHOOLS CONNECTED WITH BENEVOLENT AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.\*

*House of Refuge*, (a) corner of Poplar and William streets. Established in 1850; supported in part by the State. The Boys' school has a principal and one assistant male teacher. Largest number of inmates at any one time 88; average for the year 75; sessions from 5 to 7½ A. M., and from 5½ to 8 P. M., the evening session on Saturday being omitted.

The Girls' school has one female teacher. Largest number of inmates at any one time 44; average for the year 36; one session from 2 to 5 P. M. Being schools of discipline as well as of instruction, the order is excellent, and the scholars make fair progress in their studies. Their last session in the week is principally devoted to reading the Bible or sacred history. A considerable number of the boys, when not in school, work at some useful trade. The girls are occupied with making garments, mending, washing and other domestic duties out of school.

*Orphans' Shelter*, Thirteenth street above Callowhill. Established in 1822, under the care of an association of women Friends. It has a principal and one assistant female teacher, and is conducted principally upon the infant school plan. Number of inmates at the close of the year 73. There are always a few too small to be in school. Being apprenticed at an early age, there are seldom any over ten years old to attend.

*Home for Colored Children*, Girard avenue above Ridge Road. Established in 1855. It is under the control of a board of lady managers, assisted by a board of male trustees. It contains at present 19 inmates. Its design is to take the entire control of destitute colored children of both sexes, instruct them mentally and morally, and place them as apprentices in some useful occupation with persons interested in their welfare. It is proposed to incorporate the Institution, procure funds, and erect a building adapted to the purpose, which will accommodate the numerous applicants who seek the protection which such a home affords.

\* The reports of these Institutions are made for each calendar year.

## 4. PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

|   | Estab-<br>lished in | Number of<br>Scholars on roll. |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sarah M. Douglass, Institute Building, Lombard street<br>above Seventh, - - - | 1835                | 30                             |
| Margaretta Forten, 92 Lombard street, - -                                     | 1850                | 10                             |
| Amelia Bogle, 12th street below Spruce, - -                                   | 1841                | 17                             |
| Adam S. Driver, Barclay street above Sixth, -                                 | 1850                | 37                             |
| Elizabeth Clark, corner Fifth and Gaskill streets,                            | 1850                | 40                             |
| Emeline Higgins, 4 Raspberry street, - -                                      | 1840                | 30                             |
| Ada Hinton, 6 Locust street, - - -  | 1849                | 20                             |
| Sarah Gordon, 9 Rodman street, - - -  | 1849                | 30                             |
| Diana Smith, Prosperous Alley, - - -  | 1836                | 15                             |
| Emeline Curtis, 62 Gaskill street, - - -                                      | 1850                | 12                             |
| Sarah Ann Gordon, Bonsall street above Tenth,                                 | 1852                | 20                             |
| Ann McCormick, Brown street above Fourth, -                                   | 1854                | 30                             |
| George W. Johnson, Lombard street above Seventh, -                            | 1854                | 40                             |

*Summary of the Day Schools.*

|   | Total. | Average<br>Attendance. |
|---|--------|------------------------|
| Public Schools, - - - - -                 | 1031   | 821                    |
| Charity Schools, - - - - -                | 748    | 491                    |
| Benevolent and Reformatory Schools, - - - | 211    |                        |
| Private Schools, - - - - -                | 331    |                        |
|   | 2321   |                        |

S. M. Douglass teaches higher branches than are taught in Public Grammar Schools. The Managers of the Institute in whose building her school is kept, have made an arrangement with her by which she will at all times have 25 girls preparing for admission into their school.

M. Forten and A. Hinton teach branches similar to those taught in Grammar Schools, the former being the only one that takes boarding scholars. All the others teach nothing more than the elementary branches. The proprietors of female schools all teach plain sewing, and most of them add ornamental kneedle work, and knitting.

## 5. EVENING SCHOOLS.

Raspberry Street Schools commence on the first Monday in October and continue five months. Five sessions are held each week.

Mens' School, John W. Stokes, Principal, and three male assistants. Total 138 ; average attendance 50.

Womens' School, Mary Roberts, Principal, and four assistants. Total 255 ; average attendance 63.

*Apprentices and Young Men's School* at the New Institute commences on the first Monday in November and continues four months. Charles L. Reason, Teacher.

The Raspberry Street Schools were established many years ago, and were formerly conducted by voluntary teachers. They always enjoyed a large share of the public confidence, but since the paid system of



teaching was introduced, they have become more efficient than ever before. None are admitted to the Men's School under 18 years of age.

The school taught by C. L. Reason happily supplies the wants of apprentices and others who cannot attend Day Schools, but are too young to enter the Raspberry Street School.

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

The teachers of the Institute for Colored Youth, and of all the private schools, are of their own complexion. All the others are white.

No register is kept in any school denoting standard of scholarship, nor is there any system of rewards for exciting emulation.

When the Sheppard School was established it was feared by some that the Coates Street School would be injured thereby, but the contrary proves to be fact. So, also, some feared that the Grammar Schools would be injured by the establishment of the Institute for Colored Youth, but the former were never so well attended, or in so prosperous a state as at present.

The irregular attendance of scholars, (unavoidable in a majority of cases) particularly in the larger and more advanced schools, imposes considerable extra labor upon teachers, prevents a thorough classification, and makes the recitations less spirited than they otherwise would be. Of all men and women who labor for the good of others, none are more deserving than the faithful teachers of these schools.

It would be interesting to know the amount of school tax paid by this people, but the expense already incurred by the Board is so great that it is not practicable to procure the information at present. The census taken by our Society in 1837-8 showed very clearly that they paid something more than their proportion of poor tax, and it is presumed that they have not been of late years, if ever, deficient in their proportion of school tax.

The number of children over 8 years of age, and under 18, not in school was found to be 1620. As the canvass was mostly made in the spring and summer, it is quite probable that the number is nearer 2000 during the fall and winter months.

## II. SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

1. *Schools attached to their own congregations and conducted by their own teachers.*

|  | In school at the beginning of the year. | Admitted during the year. | Dismissed or left during the year. | In school at the close of the year. | Teachers at the beginning of the year. | Teachers at the close of the year. |
|--|---|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| First Baptist, corner Eleventh and Pearl streets, -              | 70                                      | 24                        | 2                                  | 92                                  | 10                                     | 12                                 |
| Union Baptist, Little Pine street above Sixth, -                 | 47                                      | 14                        | 0                                  | 61                                  | 8                                      | 8                                  |
| Shiloh Baptist, corner Clifton and South streets,                | 48                                      | 32                        | 1                                  | 79                                  | 7                                      | 8                                  |
| Oak street Baptist, Oak street, West Philadelphia,               | 44                                      | 10                        | 0                                  | 54                                  | 9                                      | 8                                  |
| Bethel, Sixth street above Lombard, - - - -                      | 524                                     | 76                        | 97                                 | 503                                 | 37                                     | 27                                 |
| Brick Wesley, Lombard street below Sixth, - -                    | 116                                     | 76                        | 65                                 | 127                                 | 16                                     | 23                                 |
| Union, Coates street below York Avenue, - -                      | 67                                      | 147                       | 5                                  | 209                                 | 7                                      | 20                                 |
| Little Wesley, Hurst street below Lombard, -                     | 100                                     | 81                        | 87                                 | 102                                 | 18                                     | 6                                  |
| Zoar, Brown street about Fourth, - - - -                         | 80                                      | 5                         | 55                                 | 30                                  | 10                                     | 7                                  |
| Mount Pisgab, Locust st. above Till, West Phila.                 | 39                                      | 13                        | 45                                 | 7                                   | 5                                      | 2                                  |
| Israel, corner Fifth and Gaskill streets, - -                    | 78                                      | 15                        | 15                                 | 78                                  | 10                                     | 10                                 |
| Frankford, - - - - -   | 57                                      | 0                         | 0                                  | 57                                  | 5                                      | 5                                  |
| Holmesburg, - - - - -  | 23                                      | 5                         | 18                                 | 10                                  | 5                                      | 5                                  |
| Little Wesley Mission, Seventh street below Dickerson, - - - - - | 50                                      | 10                        | 0                                  | 60                                  | 4                                      | 6                                  |
| Allen Chapel, rear 72 Christian street, - - -                    | 20                                      | 10                        | 0                                  | 30                                  | 5                                      | 5                                  |
| First Presbyterian, Seventh street below Shippen,                | 40                                      | 10                        | 0                                  | 50                                  | 4                                      | 4                                  |
| Second do. St. Mary street above Sixth,                          | 25                                      | 2                         | 0                                  | 27                                  | 7                                      | 5                                  |
| Central do. Lombard street below Ninth,                          | 66                                      | 32                        | 0                                  | 98                                  | 7                                      | 9                                  |
| St. Thomas, corner Fifth and Adelphi streets, -                  | 183                                     | 15                        | 0                                  | 198                                 | 11                                     | 11                                 |
|  | 1677                                    | 577                       | 390                                | 1882                                | 185                                    | 181                                |

2. *Schools under the supervision of White Missions and Individuals.*

|   |     |     |    |     |    |    |
|---|-----|-----|----|-----|----|----|
| St. Andrew's Church, Phil. Ins., Lombard street above Seventh.                          | 143 | 46  | 34 | 155 | 12 | 12 |
| Female Department, -  |     |     |    | 35  | 4  | 4  |
| Male do. -  |     |     |    | 40  | 1  | 1  |
| Infant School, - - -  |     |     |    |     |    |    |
|   | 143 | 46  | 34 | 230 | 17 | 17 |
| Ladies Union City Mission, corner Seventh street and Bradford's Alley. Infant School, - | 0   | 65  | 0  | 65  | 1  | 1  |
| Young Men's City Mission, Bedford street below Eighth, - - - - -                        | 30  | 35  | 5  | 60  | 3  | 6  |
| Family of Morris L. Hallowell, 211 Filbert street,                                      | 42  | 0   | 2  | 40  | 3  | 3  |
|   | 215 | 146 | 41 | 395 | 24 | 27 |

The schools connected with the Brick Wesley and Union Methodist Churches were conducted wholly by white teachers from the time they were established till about ten years ago, when they came under their own supervision. Two important objects were gained by this assumption of new duties, viz:—An increased spirit of self reliance in their congregations, and the mental improvement of those employed as teachers.

## III. ADULT EDUCATION.

1. Table showing the number who can read, write and cypher, &amp;c.

|                               | No. of adults<br>over 20 years. | Read, write and<br>cypher in the<br>simple rules. | Read and write<br>legibly. | Read only. | Cannot read. | Free born in<br>Slave States. | Slave born but<br>manumitted. |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| First Ward, - - - - -         | 223                             | 25  | 23                         | 47         | 128          | 136                           | 37                            |
| Second Ward, - - - - -        | 349                             | 36  | 54                         | 76         | 183          | 156                           | 57                            |
| Third Ward, - - - - -         | 275                             | 60  | 48                         | 68         | 99           | 118                           | 48                            |
| Fourth Ward, - - - - -        | 1427                            | 262   | 199                        | 273        | 693          | 561                           | 186                           |
| Fifth Ward, - - - - -         | 1818                            | 350   | 285                        | 310        | 873          | 747                           | 212                           |
| Sixth Ward, - - - - -         | 151                             | 21  | 25                         | 34         | 71           | 41                            | 25                            |
| Seventh Ward, - - - - -       | 1867                            | 431   | 337                        | 311        | 788          | 708                           | 213                           |
| Eighth Ward, - - - - -        | 969                             | 204   | 192                        | 199        | 374          | 356                           | 147                           |
| Ninth Ward, - - - - -         | 76                              | 20  | 16                         | 19         | 21           | 24                            | 11                            |
| Tenth Ward, - - - - -         | 208                             | 40  | 39                         | 42         | 87           | 64                            | 44                            |
| Eleventh Ward, - - - - -      | 37                              | 2   | 11                         | 5          | 19           | 14                            | 3                             |
| Twelfth Ward, - - - - -       | 234                             | 53  | 35                         | 42         | 104          | 78                            | 28                            |
| Thirteenth Ward, - - - - -    | 69                              | 15  | 12                         | 15         | 27           | 15                            | 8                             |
| Fourteenth Ward, - - - - -    | 233                             | 34  | 46                         | 66         | 87           | 61                            | 28                            |
| Fifteenth Ward, - - - - -     | 157                             | 20  | 26                         | 29         | 82           | 46                            | 22                            |
| Sixteenth Ward, - - - - -     | 82                              | 17  | 12                         | 13         | 40           | 25                            | 7                             |
| Seventeenth Ward, - - - - -   | 70                              | 13  | 8                          | 11         | 38           | 16                            | 10                            |
| Eighteenth Ward, - - - - -    | 4                               | 1   | 1                          | 0          | 2            | 1                             | 0                             |
| Nineteenth Ward, - - - - -    | 114                             | 6   | 20                         | 18         | 70           | 37                            | 26                            |
| Twentieth Ward, - - - - -     | 99                              | 22  | 12                         | 15         | 50           | 33                            | 11                            |
| Twenty-first Ward, - - - - -  | 2                               | 0   | 0                          | 1          | 1            | 0                             | 2                             |
| Twenty-second Ward, - - - - - | 36                              | 7   | 4                          | 7          | 18           | 6                             | 8                             |
| Twenty-third Ward, - - - - -  | 249                             | 30  | 43                         | 48         | 128          | 75                            | 33                            |
| Twenty-fourth Ward, - - - - - | 252                             | 41  | 34                         | 37         | 140          | 53                            | 46                            |
|                               | 9001                            | 1710  | 1482                       | 1686       | 4123         | 3371                          | 1212                          |

The Agent found it difficult, in some cases, to determine who could read. Where doubts existed upon the subject the question generally was, "Can he read tolerably free, and easily in the New Testament?" If an affirmative answer was given, he was classed as a reader.

To determine who could write was nearly as difficult. In doubtful cases the question was, "Can he write well enough to write-letters to his friends?" An affirmative answer was deemed sufficient.

As the number of men who can cypher is considerably greater than that of women, and as the former were not generally at home to answer for themselves, no satisfactory information could be obtained in some cases. In other cases the information obtained, lacked clearness. Where doubts existed, and especially if the parties inquired of seemed not to comprehend the meaning of cyphering in the simple rules, the question was asked, "Can he work out sums on a slate through long division?"

If that failed to elicit the proper answer, the attempt was then made to ascertain whether he was in the first class in certain schools named; if so, it was taken for granted that he understood the simple rules of arithmetic.

The table may seem dry and uninteresting, but let the reader analyze it a little, and he will find it instructive. The large number who cannot read (4123) may startle him at first, but let him consider that free born persons, in slave States, are so nearly on a level with the slaves, as far as school privileges are concerned, that he may add them to the slave-born, making the number 4583—difference to their credit, 460. Then let him suppose that 140 of those who cannot read were born on our own soil, a very moderate calculation, and he will have 600 as the number who learned to read, at least, since they came from the slave States. He will readily believe, however, that the number is much greater than that, if he will take the trouble to visit the evening schools and Sunday schools where adults are instructed. Such memoranda as the following, taken from the canvassing books of the Agent, will serve to strengthen this belief.

"The wife Sarah has learned to read tolerably well since she was 40 years old—never received any instruction worth mentioning." "Pretty good scholar—went to school only two months—slave-born." "Reads and writes, and is wholly self taught." "Went to school but six weeks—can read and write." "Though a slave for 50 years, she began, when about 65 years of age, to attend Sunday school, with crutch and staff, (being very lame,) and got so as to read tolerably well in the Bible—is now about 80, and goes to Sunday school and Church, when able." "Can read, write, and cypher, though he never attended school."

## 2. *Libraries and Literary Associations.*

*Public Library and Reading Room* in the Institute for Colored Youth. Established in 1853 by the Managers of the Institute. From the 2d Annual Report of the Librarian, dated 4th mo. 1st, 1855, we learn that there were then about 1,300 volumes belonging to the Library. The number of readers were 450, of whom 233 were males, and 217 females. New applicants, 127.

|   |   |   |       |
|---|---|---|-------|
| Number of books loaned out during the year, | - | - | 4,088 |
| " " " in the Reading Room,                  | - | - | 1,554 |
| Total,                                      | - | - | 5,642 |

The interest in the Institution was represented to be steadily increas-

ing, and many parents were commended for their exertions to secure the attachment of their offspring to it.

*Philadelphia Library Company.* Organized in 1833. Incorporated in 1837. Number of volumes in the Library, 200. Weekly lectures upon literary and scientific subjects are given, by the members and others, from the first week in October till the following May in each year. Discussions are held after each lecture.

*Unity Library Company.* Organized in 1851. Number of volumes 500. It has weekly lectures for three months in winter, by its own members and other persons of their own color, after which discussions are held.

*Banneker Institute.* Organized in 1854. A library is contemplated. It is composed of younger members than either of the others. It has lectures and discussions in season.

#### IV. OCCUPATIONS.

##### 1. *Mechanical Trades.*

|  |     |  |     |
|--|-----|--|-----|
| Bakers, . . . . .                            | 4   | Chair Maker, . . . . .                     | 1   |
| Baker and Brewer, . . . . .                  | 1   | Coach Painter, . . . . .                   | 1   |
| Barbers, . . . . .                           | 248 | Confectioners and Pastry Cooks, . . . . .  | 7   |
| Barber and Bootmaker, . . . . .              | 1   | Coopers, . . . . .                         | 9   |
| Barbers and Musicians, . . . . .             | 6   | Cracker Bakers, . . . . .                  | 3   |
| Basket Makers, . . . . .                     | 2   | Copper and Leecher, and Dress              |     |
| Blacksmiths, . . . . .                       | 22  | Maker, . . . . .                           | 1   |
| Blacksmith and Calico Stamper, . . . . .     | 1   | Currier, . . . . .                         | 1   |
| Blacksmith and Shoemaker, . . . . .          | 1   | Dentists, . . . . .                        | 5   |
| Bonnet Presser, . . . . .                    | 1   | Distillers, . . . . .                      | 2   |
| Book Binder and Basketmaker, . . . . .       | 1   | Draughtsmen, Sign, and Ornamen-            |     |
| Boot and Shoemakers, . . . . .               | 66  | tal Painter, . . . . .                     | 1   |
| Boot and Shoemakers and Musicians, . . . . . | 2   | Dressmakers, . . . . .                     | 565 |
| Boot and Shoemaker, Musician, and            |     | Dress and Shirt Makers, . . . . .          | 50  |
| Music Teacher, . . . . .                     | 1   | Dress and Shirt Makers, and Mil-           |     |
| Bootmaker, Barber, and Tailor, . . . . .     | 1   | ners, . . . . .                            | 2   |
| Brass Founder, . . . . .                     | 1   | Dress and Shirt Maker, and Pas-            |     |
| Brick Layers, . . . . .                      | 9   | try Cook, . . . . .                        | 1   |
| Brick Layers and Plasterers, . . . . .       | 4   | Dyers, . . . . .                           | 9   |
| Brick Makers, (3 branches, Mould-            |     | Embroiderers, . . . . .                    | 9   |
| ers, Setters, and Burners,) . . . . .        | 53  | Embroiderers and Dressmakers, . . . . .    | 3   |
| Brick Maker and Musician, . . . . .          | 1   | Embroiderer and Milliner, . . . . .        | 1   |
| Brush Maker, . . . . .                       | 1   | Embroiderers and Shirt Makers, . . . . .   | 2   |
| Cabinet Makers, . . . . .                    | 20  | Embroiderers and Tailoresses, . . . . .    | 2   |
| Cabinet and Chair Maker, House               |     | Embroiderers and Dress and Shirt           |     |
| Painter and Glazier, . . . . .               | 1   | Makers, . . . . .                          | 4   |
| Cake Bakers, . . . . .                       | 5   | Forgemen, . . . . .                        | 6   |
| Carpenters, . . . . .                        | 49  | Gardners, . . . . .                        | 2   |
| Carver, . . . . .                            | 1   | Garment Cutters, . . . . .                 | 2   |
| Carver and Gilder, . . . . .                 | 1   | Glove Maker, . . . . .                     | 1   |
| Carver and Turner, . . . . .                 | 1   | Gold and Silver Pencil Finisher, . . . . . | 1   |
| Caulkers and Gravers, . . . . .              | 3   | Hatters, . . . . .                         | 4   |

|   |    |   |       |
|---|----|---|-------|
| Hair Workers, . . . . .   | 5  | Sand Paper Maker, . . . . .                                     | 1     |
| Hair Worker and Dressmaker, . .   | 1  | Sheet Iron Workers, . . . . .                                   | 4     |
| House and Ship Carpenter, . . .   | 1  | Ship Carpenters, . . . . .                                      | 5     |
| House Painters and Glaziers, . .  | 7  | Shirt and Dressmakers, . . . .                                  | 70    |
| House and Sign Painters and Glaziers, . . . . .   | 3  | Shoemakers, . . . . .   | 46    |
| Ink and Blacking Maker, . . . .   | 1  | Shoemaker and Musician, . . . .                                 | 1     |
| Iron Moulder, . . . . .   | 1  | Shoemaker and Carpenter, . . .                                  | 1     |
| Ladies' Shoemakers, . . . . .   | 4  | Sign and Ornamental Painter, . .                                | 1     |
| Lampblack Maker, . . . . .  | 1  | Silver Smith, . . . . .   | 1     |
| Machinist, . . . . .  | 1  | Spectacle Maker, . . . . .                                      | 1     |
| Manufacturing Chemists, . . . .   | 2  | Stationary Engineers, . . . . .                                 | 9     |
| Map Mounters, . . . . .   | 2  | Stereotype Moulder and Caster, .                                | 1     |
| Mason and Bricklayer, . . . . .   | 1  | Stove Finisher, . . . . .                                       | 1     |
| Mason and Plasterer, . . . . .  | 1  | Stove Maker, . . . . .  | 1     |
| Masonic and Odd Fellows Regalia Makers, . . . . .   | 2  | Sugar Refiner, . . . . .  | 1     |
| Millers, . . . . .  | 4  | Tailors, . . . . .  | 20    |
| Milliners and Dressmakers, . . .  | 45 | Tailoresses, . . . . .  | 29    |
| Millwright, . . . . .   | 1  | Tailoresses and Dressmakers, . .                                | 23    |
| Mineral Water Maker, . . . . .  | 1  | Tailoresses, Shirt and Dressmakers, and Embroiderers, . . . . . | 2     |
| Paper Box Makers, . . . . .   | 3  | Tallow Chandler, . . . . .                                      | 1     |
| Paper Hangers, . . . . .  | 2  | Tanners, . . . . .  | 24    |
| Paper Maker, . . . . .  | 1  | Tanners and Curriers, . . . . .                                 | 6     |
| Pastry Cooks, . . . . .   | 10 | Tanner and Morocco Dresser, . .                                 | 1     |
| Plasterers, . . . . .   | 14 | Tanner and Musician, . . . . .                                  | 1     |
| Plumbers, . . . . .   | 2  | Tanners and Stationary Engineers, .                             | 2     |
| Portrait, Sign, and Ornamental Painter, Teacher of Phonography, the Guitar, and Singing, and Daguerreotypist, . . . . . | 1  | Tanner and Type Caster, . . . .                                 | 1     |
| Potters, . . . . .  | 2  | Tinsmiths, . . . . .  | 3     |
| Pressman, . . . . .   | 1  | Turners, . . . . .  | 3     |
| Printer, . . . . .  | 1  | Umbrella Makers, . . . . .                                      | 2     |
| Printers' Ink Maker, . . . . .  | 1  | Upholsterers, . . . . .   | 2     |
| Rectifier, . . . . .  | 1  | Upholsteresses, . . . . .                                       | 2     |
| Rigger, . . . . .   | 1  | Varnish Manufacturer, . . . . .                                 | 1     |
| Rope Maker, . . . . .   | 1  | Vest Makers, . . . . .  | 2     |
| Rope and Brickmaker, . . . . .  | 1  | Weavers, . . . . .  | 16    |
| Rope and Brickmaker, and Blacksmith, . . . . .  | 1  | Weaver and Blacksmith, . . . . .                                | 1     |
| Saddle and Harness Maker, . . .   | 1  | Weavers and Dressmakers, . . .                                  | 2     |
| Sail Makers, . . . . .  | 12 | Wharf Builder, . . . . .  | 1     |
|   |    | Wheelwright, . . . . .  | 1     |
|   |    | Wire Workers, . . . . .   | 2     |
|   |    | Wrought Nail Maker, . . . . .                                   | 1     |
|   |    | Total, . . . . .  | 1,637 |

## 2. Other Occupations.

|  |   |                                   |    |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|----|
| Artists, . . . . .   | 5 | Midwife, . . . . .                | 1  |
| Assistant in Pencil Factory, . . .                                 | 1 | Musicians, . . . . .              | 6  |
| Captains of Coasting Vessels, . .                                  | 2 | Music Teachers, . . . . .         | 5  |
| Clerks, . . . . .  | 5 | Musicians and Music Teachers, . . | 4  |
| Hat Store, . . . . .   | 1 | Physicians, . . . . .             | 6  |
| Indian Doctor, . . . . .   | 1 | School Teachers, . . . . .        | 16 |
| Livery Stable Keepers, . . . . .                                   | 2 | Trimming Store, . . . . .         | 1  |
| Lumber Merchants and Proprietors of Transportation Lines . . . . . | 3 | Total, . . . . .                  | 59 |

In the year 1838, our Society published a pamphlet entitled "Register of Trades of Colored People in the City of Philadelphia and Dis-

tricts." The material for the work was collected from the canvassing books of the Agents employed to take the census, published by the Society the same year, and by the further inquiries of the principal one of those Agents among the various trades. The whole number having trades, according to that estimate, was 997. Six trades therein mentioned, are not found in the present trade list, viz.: Black and White Smiths, Chair Bottomers, Fullers, Seythe and Sickle Maker, Stone Cutter, and Tobacconists. It makes no mention of Artists, Clerks, Lumber Merchants, &c.

The material for the present list was obtained by a personal canvass from house to house, and embraces the whole consolidated City. The whole number having trades, exclusive of those mentioned under the head of "Other Occupations," is 1652. Forty-one trades are here mentioned that are not found in the "Register" before mentioned, viz.: Carver, Carver and Gilder, Chair Maker, Coach Painter, Distillers, Draughtsman, Embroiderers, Gardeners, Garment Cutters, Glove Maker, Gold and Silver Pencil Finisher, Ink and Blacking Maker, Iron Moulder, Lamp Black Maker, Machinist, Manufacturing Chemists, Map Mounters, Masonic and Odd Fellows Regalia Makers, Paper Box Makers, Paper Hangers, Printers' Ink Maker, Rectifier, Rigger, Saddle and Harness Maker, Sheet Iron Workers, Shirt Makers, Silver Smith, Spectacle maker, Stationary Engineers, Stereotype Moulder and Caster, Stove Finishers, Stove Maker, Tallow Chandler, Umbrella Maker, Upholsterers, Varnish Manufacturer, Vest Makers, Wharf Builder, and Wire Workers.

Less than two-thirds of those who have trades follow them. A few of the remainder pursue other avocations from choice, but the greater number are compelled to abandon their trades on account of the unrelenting prejudice against their color.

#### CONCLUSION.

Information relating to property, pauperism, and crime, was not contemplated in this publication, but facts bearing upon either subject are so deeply interesting, that no apology need be made for introducing the following brief statements, contained in a neatly printed pamphlet prepared by a committee of colored citizens of Philadelphia, in 1855, memorializing the Legislature for the restoration of the right of suffrage which they enjoyed for 47 years prior to the adoption of the present constitution in 1838.

We [of Philadelphia] possess \$2,685,693 of real and personal estate,

and have paid \$9,766 42 for taxes during the past year, and \$396,782 27 for house, water, and ground rent. We have had incorporated 108 Mutual Beneficial Societies having 9,762 members, with an annual income of \$29,600 00, and a permanent invested fund of \$28,366 00, which is deposited in various institutions among the *whites* who derive a large profit therefrom. One thousand three hundred and eighty-five families were assisted by these Societies to the amount of \$10,292 38 during the year 1853. It is evident from the facts that these charitable institutions must materially relieve the distress of families and maintain a large portion of our poor under circumstances which would otherwise throw them upon public charity. Again, as to crimes among us, by a letter of Judge Kelley, written in answer to certain questions put to him, it is shown that for the three years up to 1854 the commitments of colored persons to the Philadelphia County Prison have gradually decreased, while those of the *whites* for the same period have markedly increased.

The New York Independent published, a few years since, a series of six letters from a Philadelphia correspondent, over the signature of A. H. B. They are written in a very friendly spirit, and contain much valuable information respecting the colored population of our city. The last one is devoted in part to the subject of education. The concluding paragraph is so just and so hopeful in its tone, that we give it entire. "There is one idea that has often suggested itself to my mind in contemplating the condition and progress of these people, which may, perhaps seem strange in such a connection. It is the nobility of human nature, in itself considered. I have often, it is true, been struck with the same idea from other sources. It is a natural thought to any one who looks at what mankind have done, and especially what the great men of the world have done. When we think of Shakspeare and Gibbon, of Kant and Neander, in the world of books; when we remember the Reformation and the American Revolution, and the names of Luther and Washington, we cannot fail to be impressed at once with a feeling of awe and gratification at what man, *as man, is*, and what he can do. But when I see a people pinioned by so many discouragements, and bruised under such a complicated and heavy mass of difficulties as the colored people, steadily and surely elevating themselves above their circumstances; when I behold the immense mountain of prejudice that rests upon them, tottering and almost rising bodily from its base, I am struck with a degree of admiration and amazement that I seldom feel on any other occasion, at the intrinsic strength and infinite tendencies of humanity."